

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 699

By Armstrong

A RESOLUTION to support health care reform for the citizens of the United States of America.

WHEREAS, it is clear that health care reform can no longer wait; rapidly escalating health care costs are crushing family, business, and government budgets; and

WHEREAS, employer-sponsored health insurance premiums have nearly doubled since 2000, a rate three times faster than cumulative wage increases; this forces families to make impossible choices between paying for basic needs or paying health premiums; and

WHEREAS, given all that we spend on health care, American families should not be presented with that choice; the United States spent approximately \$2.2 trillion on health care in 2007, or \$7,421 per person – nearly twice the average of other developed nations; and

WHEREAS, Americans spend more on health care than on housing and food; if rapid health care cost growth persists, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that by 2025, one out of every four dollars in our national economy will be tied up in the health system; and

WHEREAS, this growing burden will limit other investments and priorities that are needed to grow our economy; rising health care costs also affect our economic competitiveness in the global economy, as American companies compete against companies in other countries that have dramatically lower health care costs; and

WHEREAS, it is essential that any health care reforms enacted reduce costs to make health care affordable, protect a patient's choice of doctors, hospitals, and insurance plans, and assure quality affordable health care for all Americans; and

WHEREAS, it is of vital importance to the State of Tennessee and to every American that health care reform be enacted; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that the members of this body, recognizing the health care cost crisis of this nation and its citizens, strongly supports health care reform.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.